

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BRASIL 05359 282021Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 DLOS-09 INR-07 OES-07
PM-04 NSC-05 /064 W
-----115996 282059Z /63 S
P 281950Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2490

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 5359

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, SHUM, SOPN, BR
SUBJ: BACKGROUND ON SILVEIRA-PRESS ATTACHE COMMENTS

REF: A) STATE 148783-C, B) BRASILIA 5256

1. SUMMARY: AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN JORNAL DO BRASIL, JUNE 20, QUOTED OUT OF CONTEXT JOHN DEWITT, EMBASSY PRESS ATTACHE, STATING THAT BRAZIL WAS NOT THE TARGET OF THE USG HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY. DEWITT SET RECORD STRAIGHT BUT FOREIGN MINISTER TOLD PRESS HE WAS PLEASED WITH ORIGINAL STATEMENT. (REFTEL A) PRESS PLAYED BOTH SILVEIRA'S COMMENTS AND DEWITT'S CLARIFICATION JUNE 21. END SUMMARY.

2. JOHN DEWITT, EMBASSY PRESS ATTACHE, GAVE A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW ON JUNE 19 TO CARLOS MARCHI, NEW JOURNALIST WITH THE BRASILIA BUREAU OF THE RIO-BASED JORNAL DO BRASIL. DURING THE COURSE OF THE INTERVIEW DEWITT POINTED OUT THAT THE USG HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY WAS WORLD-WIDE IN SCOPE AND WAS NOT DIRECTED AT ANY ONE COUNTRY, AND RECONFIRMED THAT BRAZIL WAS NOT A SPECIFIC TARGET OF THE POLICY.

3. THE CONVERSATION CONTINUED WITH A GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE REACTION TO U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE US ITSELF, SOVIET
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BRASIL 05359 282021Z

UNION, IRON CURTAIN COUNTRIES, AND SEVERAL LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS, AMONG THEM BRAZIL, ARGENTINA AND CHILE.

4. THIS EMERGED IN THE ARTICLE, NOT AS A DISCUSSION OF VARYING REACTIONS TO THE POLICY, BUT AS DEWITT HAVING MADE ASSESSMENTS AS TO WHICH COUNTRIES WERE

THE "REAL TARGETS" OF THE POLICY. THE FIRST FOUR PARAGRAPHS OF THE STORY AS IT APPEARED ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THE NEWSPAPER ARE TRANSLATED BELOW:

5. BEGIN TRANSLATION:

HEADLINE: US DOES NOT CONSIDER BRAZIL TARGET OF CARTER POLICY

AMEMBASSY SPOKESMAN JOHN DEWITT SAID YESTERDAY THAT THE MAIN TARGET OF U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY IS SOVIET UNION AND "PERHAPS SOME LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES, AS CHILE AND ARGENTINA, BUT NOT BRAZIL". ACCORDING TO MR. DEWITT, BRAZIL HAS MISINTERPRETED PRESIDENT CARTER'S FOREIGN POLICY.

"U.S. MAIN INTERESTS ARE WITH ITS ALLIES OF WESTERN EUROPE AND JAPAN, AND IN THOSE COUNTRIES THERE IS NO VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, WHICH HAPPENS CONSTANTLY IN THE SOVIET UNION AND CHINA, ORU ENEMIES," SAYS MR. JOHN DEWITT.

THE AMEMBASSY SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT, IN ORDER TO DEMAND RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE SOVIET UNION AND CHINA, HIS COUNTRY NEEDS TO MAKE THESE RIGHTS RESPECTED BY ITS ALLIES. "THERE IS NO WAY TO GIVE UP THE EFFORTS TOWARDS DEMANDING RESPECT

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BRASIL 05359 282021Z

FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ALL OVER WESTERN WORLD," HE SAID.

MR. DEWITT STATED THAT THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY'S FIGHT AGAINST INTERNATIONAL COMMUNISM IS AT STAKE. "THIS IS A WORLDWIDE POLICY AND HAS A COST. ALL POLICIES HAVE A COST. AND SINCE THERE IS NO IDEAL FOREIGN POLICY, WE HAVE TO SEEK BALANCE; WE HAVE CHOSEN A POLICY WHICH IS CONSISTENT WITH DEMOCRACY," HE SAID. END TRANSLATION.

6. THE TWIST GIVEN DEWITT'S COMMENTS BY REPORTER MARCHI LED TO TWO SIGNIFICANT REACTIONS. THE FIRST WAS FONMIN SILVEIRA'S APPROBATION, FIRST OFFERED IN REMARKS TO BRAZILIAN JOURNALISTS WHO INFORMED HIM OF THE INTERVIEW ON HIS RETURN FROM THE OAS MEETING IN GRENADA. SILVEIRA APPARENTLY BELIEVED THAT DEWITT HAD INITIATED THE INTERVIEW IN ORDER TO MAKE A "DECLARACAO" WHICH THE FONMIN DESCRIBED AS "VERY GOOD" BUT WHOSE MOTIVE HE SAID HE FOUND "DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND." (ARTICLE IN O GLOBO JUNE 21, HEADLINED, "SILVEIRA PRAISES STATEMENTS.")

7. THE SECOND SIGNIFICANT REACTION WAS FROM THE
BRAZILIAN AND LATIN AMERICAN PRESS. DEWITT TELEPHONED
HIS MOST IMPORTANT PRESS CONTACTS TO SET THE RECORD
STRAIGHT ON THE INTERVIEW, AND HE
CABLED (UPON REQUEST) A CLARIFICATION TO USIS
SANTIAGO (REFTEL B). AS A RESULT, BRASILIA NEWSPAPER
CORREIO BRAZILIENSE PRINTED A LONG ARTICLE JUNE 21, WHOSE
LEAD REPEATED SILVEIRA'S FAVORABLE REACTION BUT WHICH
ALSO CLARIFIED DEWITT'S COMMENTS, PUTTING THE HUMAN
RIGHTS POLICY INTO GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE AND DENYING
ABSOLUTELY THAT HE HAD IDENTIFIED CHILE AND ARGENTINA
AS SPECIFIC TARGETS.
JOHNSON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, POLICIES, PRESS ATTACHES, PRESS CONFERENCES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BRASIL05359
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770231-0170
Format: TEL
From: BRASILIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770612/aaaaajvy.tel
Line Count: 128
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: aa239e73-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 148783, 77 BRASILIA 5256
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2014316
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BACKGROUND ON SILVEIRA-PRESS ATTACHE COMMENTS
TAGS: PGOV, SHUM, SOPN, BR, US, (DEWITT, JOHN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/aa239e73-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009